

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 180950Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO COMSIXTHFLT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8634
AMEMBASSY RABAT
CNO
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMFAIRMED NAPLES
USS NIMITZ
USS SOUTH CAROLINA
NAVSTA ROTA SP
CTF SIX ZERO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MNUC, SP
SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR NPW VISIT TO ROTA--USS NIMITZ AND
USS SOUTH CAROLINA, JAN 24-27

REF: MADRID 0107 (DTG 051950Z JAN 77)(NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISION (REFTEL) TO TREAT THE VISIT OF
THE NIMITZ AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA TO ROTA JAN 24-27 AS ONLY
ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF ROUTINE VISITS BY US SHIPS TO SPANISH
PORTS, WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING LOW KEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS
GUIDANCE FOR THE VISIT AND HAVE COORDINATED IT WITH THE APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE NAVY
MINISTRY. GOS PLANS NO ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS VISIT,
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NOR DO WE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES, US OFFICIALS WILL
STATE:

--TWO NUCLEAR-POWERED VESSELS ATTACHED TO THE SIXTH FLEET WILL
VISIT ROTA, SPAIN, JAN 24-27. THE TWO SHIPS ARE THE AIRCRAFT

CARRIER NIMITZ AND THE CRUISER SOUTH CAROLINA. THE SHIPS WILL VISIT ROTA IN ORDER TO PROVIDE REST AND RECREATION FOR THE CREWS AND TO REPLENISH SUPPLIES. THIS VISIT HAS BEEN ARRANGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 5, ARTICLE VIII, OF THE AGREEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION (ACUERDO DE DESARROLLO) OF THE TREATY OF FREINDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO BE USED ON IF-ASKED BASIS:

Q: DOES THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS IN PORT REPRESENT A HEALTH HAZARD TO LOCAL POPULATIONS DUE TO RADIOACTIVITY?

A: EXTREME CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN IN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION OF THE NUCLEAR REACTORS WHICH POWER THESE SHIPS. NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS HAVE BEEN IN SERVICE WITH THE U.S. NAVY FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES WITHOUT A SERIOUS ACCIDENT. THE SHIPS ARE CONTINUOUSLY MONITORED TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF THEIR CREWS AND TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY PRESENT NO HAZARDS TO THE ENVIRONMENT. NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS HAVE BEEN BASED AT AND HAVE REGULARLY VISITED PORTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD FOR NEARLY 25 YEARS WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT OR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC.

Q: DOES THE NIMITZ OR THE SOUTH CAROLINA CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

A: IT IS LONGSTANDING U.S. GOVT POLICY NEITHER TO CONFIRM NOR DENY THE PRECISE LOCATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

Q: ARE THERE ANY POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN THIS VISIT'S TIMING?
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A: NO. THE U.S. NAVY HAS BEEN MAKING ROUTINE COURTESY VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS FOR MANY YEARS, AND THIS IS ONE MORE SUCH VISIT.

A: WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS AN ACCIDENT?

A: (USE ANSWER TO FIRST QUESTION ABOVE; ADD FOLLOWING:) THE QUESTION OF LIABILITY IS DEALT WITH IN U.S. DIPLOMATIC NOTE NO. 67 OF JAN 24, 1976, WHICH IS A PART OF THE TREATY.

Q: IS EITHER OF THESE SHIPS ARMED WITH MISSILES?

A: BOTH VESSELS ARE MISSILE-EQUIPPED FOR ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE.

Q: WHY ARE TWO SHIPS OF SUCH SIZE VISITING ROTA AT THE SAME TIME?

A: IT IS COMMON FOR MILITARY SHIPS OF ALL NATIONS TO SAIL AND

VISIT PORTS IN COMPANY. IN THIS CASE, THE SOUTH CAROLINA ACCOMPANIES THE NIMITZ AS AN ASSIGNED ESCORT SHIP DURING THE NIMITZ'S CURRENT DEPLOYMENT.

Q: WHAT SAFEGUARDS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS VISIT; AND HAVE THESE BEEN WORKED OUT IN COOPERATION WITH THE SPANISH GOVT?

A: ON THE U.S. SIDE, THERE IS CONTINUOUS MONITORING (SEE RESPONSE TO FIRST QUESTION). THE SPECIFIC MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES ARE NATURALLY FOR THEM TO COMMENT ON."

END TEXT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE BY COB MADRID TIME WED, 19 JAN, IF ANY CHANGES DESIRED IN THIS GUIDANCE. WE PLAN DRAW ON THIS AS OF THURSDAY, 20 JAN. STABLER
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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